

The Daily Gazetteer.

MONDAY, MARCH 20. 1738.

NUMB. 845

N^o. 853.



THEY write from Vienna, that the Grand Duke of Tuscany will at length be able to prevail on the Velt Marshal Count de Palfi, to make another Campaign with him. The last time that his Royal Highness was at Presbourg, when he pressed him to draw his Sword once more for his Country, he made him Answer, That he had dedicated his Sword to the blessed Virgin at the Church of Marienfel in Styria, and that thither he was resolved to go this Summer, in order to implore her powerful Intercession for the Blessing of Heaven upon the Imperial Arms. His Royal Highness replied, That there were other Swords to be had, and that he would find one for his Purpose: And he actually got one made for him at Vienna, the Hilt whereof was adorned with Diamonds, which he sent to Presbourg by an Officer of his Court, who has given it to the Count. 'Twas fear'd at first that the old General would excuse himself from excepting it, because of the Condition which seem'd to be annex'd to it; but we hear that he received it with all the Satisfaction that could be wished for; and therefore 'tis not doubted, but he will accompany his Royal Highness either as a Volunteer or an Adjutant General, if the Court should disabie the Velt Marshal de Koningsek from serving. The Great Duke has assured the Count, that he will give him his Table, and all the necessary Baggage and Equipage.

Some Account of the Trial of John Wingfield, for setting Fire to a Barn of Farmer Hanson, &c.

AT the General Gaol Delivery of the Gaol of our Sovereign Lord the King, holden at Reading in and for the County of Berks, on Monday the 27th of February, in the 11th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George II. by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Before Sir John Fortescue Alland, Knt. one of the Justices of his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, Sir William Chapple, Knt. one of the Justices of the Court of our said Sovereign Lord the King assign'd to hold Pleas before the King himself; and Thomas Mulso, Esq; and when their Fellow Justices assigned to deliver his Gaol of the said County of the Prisoners therein being.

John Wingfield was indicted for that he on the 10th Day of October, in the 11th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, with Force and Arms, at the Parish of Bradfield, a certain Barn of William Thompson, Esq; in the Possession of Thomas Hanson, Yeoman, with a large Quantity of Wheat and other Corn, the Property of the said Thomas Hanson in the said Barn then and there being, feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously did set Fire to and burn, and with Fire did destroy and consume against the Peace, &c. and also against the Form of the Statute in such Case lately made and provided.

He was at the same time indicted for the same Offence, as an Offence at Common Law.

After Counsellor Hamet had explain'd the Nature of these Indictments, Serjeant Skinner spoke to the following Effect:

Gentlemen of the Jury,

I am Counsel for the Prosecutor against the Prisoner at the Bar. John Wingfield, who has been guilty of an Offence so base in its Nature, that it will admit of no Aggravation: It is a Crime, Gentlemen, which the Wisdom of our Laws has deprived of Mercy, being so detestable and attended with such dreadful Consequences, that it was thought highly necessary that the Benefit of Clergy should be taken from it by a particular Statute. Fire, every one knows, is a devouring Evil, it destroys without Mercy, and spreads Ruin and Destruction, wherever it gets the Upperhand, so that he that lights it cannot tell where it will end. Indeed the Prisoner at the Bar did not care what Havock it made, or what Mischief it did: He was bent upon Revenge, and he was resolv'd to take the most terrible Method he could devise to gratify his darling Passion.

It seems, Gentlemen, the Prisoner had unjustly contracted a Prejudice both against Mr. Thompson the Owner of the Barn, and against Farmer Hanson the Occupier of it, on the following Occasion: Mr. Thompson who is Lord of the Manor of Bradfield, has several Farms adjoining to the Grounds possessed by the Prisoner's Mother; this gave the Prisoner, who is a Man of a most vile, resolute and mischievous Temper, frequent Opportunities of committing Injuries and Trespasses upon Mr. Thompson and his Tenants, and that too in so high Degree, that he became a Terror to the whole Neighbourhood; whereupon Mr. Thompson, as well for the Ease of his Tenants, as to obtain Satisfaction for his own Damage, brought an Action against him about Trinity Term last, for a Trespass, by putting a Bull in his Grounds, and the Prisoner suffer'd Judgment to pass against him by Default; and in this Cause Farmer Hanson was a Witness for Mr. Thompson: This, Gentlemen, so provoked the Prisoner, that he swore Revenge against them both in a most daring, resolute Manner, thinking thereby to intimidate Mr. Thompson from carrying the Judgment in Execution against him; but finding very little Encouragement to hope for Favour, as Michaelmas Term drew nearer, his Fears of the Execution grew stronger, and then he declared, *That he must be obliged in a short Time to leave Bradfield*, (meaning on Account of the said Judgment) *he would make a Ration Place of it before he departed*. This, Gentlemen, was about the 15th Day of September, and on the 11th of October, when other People were rejoicing for the Coronation of our present most gracious Sovereign, he laid hold of that Opportunity as a proper Time to execute his wicked Purpose with Security: It will appear, Gentlemen, by the Evidence, that that very Evening, between the Hours of 9 and 10 he set fire to this Barn, which consisted of 18 Bays of Building full of Corn, and entirely destroy'd the same, together with a Stable adjoining, to the great Damage of the unhappy Sufferers, whose Loss on this Occasion, amounted to no less than 1400 l.

The Reasons, Gentlemen, for suspecting the Prisoner were chiefly taken from the many Imprecations and malicious Expressions he had been heard to utter both against the Owner and Occupier of the Barn; these, together with the known Character of the Man, that he would stick at no Villainy to gratify his Revenge, were thought sufficient for taking him before a Magistrate, in order to pass Examination; and for the better discovery of Truth, and the readier coming at Evidence, Mr. Pottenger ordered the Prisoner to be brought before him at Englefield the adjoining Parish to Bradfield, where, tho' he denied that he ever threatened to be up or even with Mr. Thompson, he own'd, that when he first heard of the Fire, he said he was sorry for Mr. Hanson's Loss, but if Mr. Thompson had been burnt in the Middle of the Barn, it had been no matter. This, Gentlemen, is certainly a strong Argument, that the Prisoner's boundless Malice was not satisfy'd with destroying Mr. Thompson's Substance, but that he still wish'd for an Opportunity to deprive him of Life likewise.

It must be observed, Gentlemen, that this Barn ranged along one Side of a common Road, and on the opposite Side there was a Coppice, known by the Name of Hog Coppice, thro' which there was a kind of unfrequented Path, leading the nearest Way to the back Part of the Prisoner's House: Here one Thomas Haines suspecting that the Person who committed the Fact would retire for shelter, resolv'd to examine the Coppice, and the next Morning after the Fire he, together with one William Wicks, discovered the Footsteps of one Man only, which appeared plain and fresh, as if they had been made the Night before: These Footsteps, Gentlemen, the two Men I just mentioned, traced from that Side of the Coppice that lies next the Barn, to within a few Yards of the other Side of the Coppice that joins to the Prisoner's Grounds. This being reported, when the Prisoner was upon his Examination before Mr. Pottenger, that Gentleman ordered one of his Shoes to be taken off, a new and very remarkable Shoe, with a very broad Heel, and picked at the Corners, and sent the said William Wicks, and a Shoemaker, to compare it with the Footsteps found in the Cop-

pice. When these Men returned, they declared, that the Footsteps remained very perfect, especially the Heel Part; that the Shoe fitted exactly both as to the Breadth of the Heel, the Corners, and the Depth of it to the Shoe Leather, and that having made an Impression on the Ground with the said Shoe, it agreed with the other Footsteps then remaining in the Path-way.

This, Gentlemen, is a convincing Circumstance, that the Prisoner was the very Man who set the Barn on Fire; but as there is now no need of circumstantial Proofs to persuade you that he is guilty, I do but barely mention these Things, to add Weight to the Testimony of the Witness, who saw the Prisoner at the Bar set Fire to the Barn, between the Hours of Nine and Ten o'Clock, and that too in three Places; one Place, when he first discovered it, was as large as the Fire for swelling a Hog; another something less; and the third Place he saw the first Sparkling of it, together with the Head and Shoulders of the Prisoner. No sooner was this horrid, this dreadful Scene of Ruin and Devastation put in Action, but the Witness perceived the Author of it take to the Coppice; this so surprized him, that he run as fast as he could round the Coppice, and when he came to the further Corner of it, he heard, as he call'd it, a Roust, so he quitted down, and presently out rushed the Prisoner at the Bar, who unexpectedly seeing the Witness, came directly up, and said to him, By God I have done it, that I have, damn me, (meaning, set the Barn on Fire) and if you discover me, I'll murder you, but if you will keep it secret, I'll give you a Pair of Shoes.

Here, Gentlemen, is a plain and ample Discovery of the whole Villainy. The Man saw him set the Barn on Fire, perceived him go into the Coppice, where the Prints of his Shoes were afterwards found and compared; and then beheld him rush out of the Coppice, and heard him acknowledge the very Crime with which he is now charged.

Now, Gentlemen, after all this, is it not amazing to see a Person so notoriously guilty of an Offence so heinous in the Sight of God, and so injurious to his Neighbour, behave, before a Tribunal of Justice, in so impudent, so audacious a Manner; for my own Part, Gentlemen, I am really shock'd to behold a Man so abandon'd, so lost to all Sense of Shame and Remorse, as not to appear serious at a Time when his Life is in Danger of being forfeited for the Crimes he has committed against the Laws of God, and the Laws of his Country. It is so far from being an Argument of Innocence, that it is scarce possible to conceive that any Man could be so unconcerned on so solemn an Occasion, who was no grown desperate by reflecting on the Iniquity of his former Transactions: Innocence is always accompanied with modesty, especially where it is accused of Crimes of a dangerous and destructive Nature, and when a Person is wrongfully accused, there is generally something so affecting in his Deportment, that we cannot help being moved with Compassion for him, if the Malice of his Enemies prevail against him: But here, Gentlemen, you see before you an Object of a very different Nature, a Man loaded with the Guilt of a most dreadful Offence, glorying in his Impiety, and flying, as it were, in the Face of Justice; but I trust his Lordship, will take upon him to admonish the Prisoner to behave with more Decency.

I have one thing more, Gentlemen, to lay before you, which, if the Prisoner was really guilty of it, (and if I am rightly informed, he certainly was) it is such an Aggravation of his Crimes, as could not have been exceeded; what I mean, is an Attempt to evade, while he was in Gaol, to suborn false Evidence to obtain his Liberty and escape the Justice of the Law: The Case was thus, One Mrs. Day having some Affairs to settle with the Prisoner, went to the Gaol to make an end of it. When they had done their Business, the Prisoner called her aside, and asked her to do him a Kindness, for, says he, if you'll send for Farmer Hanson's Plough-Boy, and give him some Liquor, you may get him to swear, that he was in the Barn the Night the Fire happened, with a Candle and Lanthorn, and that very likely the Fire happened by that Means; and then, added he, I shall get out of Gaol.



Now, Gentlemen, when a Man, by a long Habit of Vice and Immorality, becomes at last so desperately wicked as to set Houses and Barns on Fire, and to destroy the whole Substance of his Neighbours, to the utter Ruin of themselves and Families; I say, if a Man is capable of carrying his Malice to such a Length as this, and after all, shall endeavour to screen his Villainy by suborning Witnesses, and corrupting Justice, I believe it will readily be granted, that it is high time such a Man should be cut off from the Society of honest Men.

It will appear, Gentlemen, by the Evidence we are just going to lay before ye, that the Prisoner at the Bar has been guilty of all that is here laid to his Charge; and as to his general Character, it is so well known to all of you, that it were needless for me to enlarge upon it, and therefore I shall proceed directly to the Evidence.

HOME PORTS.

Deal, March 17. Wind S.W. Remains in the Downs and preparing to sail, the *Everton*, Bruce, for Bremen. Arrived the *Westmoreland*, Shanks, from Leghorn.

Deal, March 18. Wind S.W. Came down and remain the *Dolphin*, Masters; the *Don Francisco*, Salter, for Lisbon; the *Aylesbury*, Bray, for Venice; the *St. George*, Jolly, for Leghorn. Arrived the *Annley*, Allen, from Lisbon.

LONDON.

Yesterday the Right Reverend Dr. Butts, Lord Bishop of Norwich, preached before his Majesty and the Princess Amelia at the Chapel Royal at St. James's.

On Tuesday last came on at Holyrood House at Edinburgh, the Election of one of the Sixteen Peers of Scotland, in the room of the Earl of Moreton, deceased, when the Earl of Hyndford was chosen without Opposition.

This Day the Justices of the Peace for the City and Liberty of Westminster, meets at Westminster Hall, pursuant to their last Adjournment.

On Friday Night the Corps of John Love, Esq; formerly an eminent Turkey Merchant of this City, who died a few Days since at his House at Clapham in Surry, was brought from thence and interred in a grand Manner, in a Vault belonging to the Family in the Burying Ground in Bunhill-fields.

On Saturday last Thomas Howard was committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster, by Justice Manley, charged on the Oath of James Holly, for robbing him of one Guinea.

The same Day Elizabeth Herbert alias Evans, was committed to the said Gaol by Justice Margetts, for stealing several Things of Value, being the Property of Mr. Benjamin Kickerman.

On Thursday the 9th Instant died at his Seat at Stonely Abbey, Aged 53, the Right Hon. Edward Lord Leigh, Baron Leigh of Stonely in the County of Warwick.

Last Monday died at Durham, Capt. William Lamb, of the second Regiment of Foot Guards.

Yesterday died at his Lodgings in the Strand, in an advanced Age, Capt. Malley, formerly Capt. of a Company in the Guards, but of late has lived retired upon Half-pay.

Thursday last William Aven, Esq; a Gentleman of a plentiful Estate in the County of Worcester, was married at Lewfham in the County of Kent, to Miss Jane Webb, an Heiress of 12,000l. Fortune.

Last Week the Assizes ended at Nottingham, when William Roding, for stealing a Mare from Mr. John Harwood, and James Giddins, for committing several Robberies on the Highway, received Sentence of Death.

John Stocks, for stealing from Isaac Boot several Goods of Value, was cast for Transportation.

Mathew Ellis, for Horse-stealing; John Hargraves, for stealing a Parcel of Buck Skins out of the House of John Petty; Robert Needham, for stealing a Guinea and some Silver from John Shaw, were tried and Acquitted.

William Taylor, otherwise Charles Emerton, was removed by Habeas Corpus to Worcester, to be tried for Horse-stealing; as was Richard Woodward to Derby, to be tried for committing several Robberies on the Highway.

Thomas Whitaker and John Sherles, were ordered to remain in Gaol, pursuant to their former Order.

William Marshall was removed from the said Gaol to Lincoln, where he was condemned for robbing the Gainsborough Mail.

BANKRUPTS.

Thomas Willoughby, late of Great Kirby-street, in the Parish of St. Andrew Holbourn, in the County of Middlesex, Fan-maker and Chapman.

John Gullan, of the Parish of St. Olaves Southwark, in the County of Surry, Apothecary and Surgeon.

Edward Speed, late of the Parish of St. George Southwark, in the County of Surry, Vintner and Chapman.

John Sindrey, of the Parish of St. Giles in the Fields, in the County of Middlesex, Brewer.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge.	10 19	10 54

Bank Stock 141 3-4ths. India 174 3-4ths. South Sea 100 1-4th. Old Annuity 111 5-8ths. New ditto 109 1-half to 5-8ths. Three per Cent. 105 3-4ths to 106. 7 per Cent. Loan 109 3-4ths. 5 per Cent. ditto 99 1-half. Royal Assurance 109 1-half. London Assurance 147 8ths to 15. African 14. India Bonds 61. 17s. Premium. South Sea ditto, 31. Prem. Bank Circulation 21. 2s. 6d. Premium. Salt Talties 1 to 3 Premium. English Copper 21. 18s. to 31. Welsh ditto 15. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-4th per Cent. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 3 per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 123.

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